(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that FSI has not been able to provide adequate information to fishing sector in the country;

(d) if so, whether Central Government have set up any performance targets for the FSI; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to set specific targets for such organizations as is being done by CSIR etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASUMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No Sir. However, performance targets for FSI have been set up by the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Availability of Foodgrains

1814.SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with a steady rise in consumption of foodgrains and other primary products, inflationary pressure may get accentuated in the absence of adequate availability;

(b) whether it is also a fact that to cope up with the demand the farm out put will have to grow at 4 percent alongwith a change in crop pattern; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Against estimated consumption requirement of 191.17 million tonnes foodgrains for the country as a whole during 2005-06, domestic production of the same was 208.30 million tonnes. The two figures for 2004-05 were 188.38 million tonnes (consumption requirement) and 198.36 million tonnes (domestic production) respectively.

The inflation rate of primary articles including food, as measured by wholesale price index (WPI) with base year 1993-94=100 stood at 2.92% during 2005-06 and 3.64% during 2004-05. As against this, the inflation rate for all commodities stood at 4.43% during 2005-06 and 6.48% during 2004-05. These figures show that inflation rate of primary articles were lower than 'all-commodity' inflation.

A target of 4 percent annual average growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors has been set for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Plan has also emphasized on diversification of agriculture towards high value crops and crops with potential for value addition such as horticultural crops.

The major steps taken to increase production in the agriculture sector are as follows:

Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for crops.

Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM).

Increase in the rate of public investment in sectors like irrigation including micro irrigation, watershed development, rural road connectivity, rural electrification.

Agricultural diversification through horticulture and floriculture.

Development/strengthening of modern agricultural markets through public private partnership.

Reorientation of banks towards extending credit, especially production credit, to rural and farmers' households at concessional rate of interest.

Revitalization of Agricultural research to ensure full exploitation of scientific advances for improving productivity according to agro-climatic conditions.

Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vikas Kendras in each district.

Contract farming to attract corporate investors.